IN THE CLAIMS:

The status of each claim that has been introduced in the above-referenced application is identified in the ensuing listing of the claims. This listing of the claims replaces all previously submitted claims listings.

1. (Currently amended) A ~~hands-free~~ non-contact electrical switch, comprising:
an electronic switching element; and
a motion detection element configured to sense an intended, substantially linear switching motion and, upon sensing ~~an appropriate~~ the substantially linear switching motion, to cause the electronic switching element to switch between a first state and a second state.

2. (Currently amended) The ~~hands-free~~ non-contact electrical switch of claim 1, wherein the motion detection element includes:
at least two emitters; and
at least one detector.

3. (Currently amended) The non-contact ~~hands-free~~ electrical switch of claim 2, wherein the at least two emitters are in substantial vertical alignment with one another.

4. (Currently amended) The non-contact ~~hands-free~~ electrical switch of claim 3, wherein the at least one detector is positioned between the at least two emitters.

5. (Currently amended) The non-contact ~~hands-free~~ electrical switch of claim 1, wherein the motion detection element is configured to sense the ~~appropriate~~ substantially linear switching motion when the ~~appropriate~~ substantially linear switching motion is effected within about one-half inch to about six inches of the motion detection element.

6. (Currently amended) The non-contact ~~hands-free~~ electrical switch of claim 1, further comprising:
at least one visible ~~position~~ switch state indicator.

7. (Currently amended) The non-contact ~~hands-free~~ electrical switch of claim 6, wherein the at least one visible ~~position~~ switch state indicator comprises a pair of visible ~~position~~ switch state indicators.

8. (Currently amended) The non-contact ~~hands-free~~ electrical switch of claim 7, wherein each ~~position~~ switch state indicator of the pair of ~~position~~ switch state indicators comprises a light-emitting diode.

9. (Currently amended) The non-contact ~~hands-free~~ electrical switch of claim 1, further comprising:
an audio element configured to output an audible signal when the ~~appropriate~~ substantially linear switching motion is detected by the motion detection element.

10. (Currently amended) A non-contact ~~hands-free~~ electrical switch, comprising:
at least one processor;
an electronic switching element in communication with the at least one processor;
a pair of substantially aligned emitters configured to emit electromagnetic radiation, each emitter of the pair in communication with and under control of the at least one processor;
at least one detector positioned between the emitters of the pair and in substantial alignment therewith, the at least one detector configured to detect electromagnetic radiation of at least one wavelength emitted by the emitters, the at least one detector in communication with the at least one processor so as to change a state of the electronic switching element upon detection of ~~an appropriate~~ a substantially linear switching motion by the at least one detector.

11. (Currently amended) The non-contact ~~hands-free~~ electrical switch of claim 10, wherein the electronic switching element comprises an optically coupled triac.

12. (Currently amended) The non-contact ~~hands-free~~ electrical switch of claim 10, wherein the pair of substantially aligned emitters or the at least one detector is configured such that that at least one detector will sense the ~~appropriate~~ substantially linear switching motion when effected within about six inches thereof.

13. (Currently amended) The non-contact ~~hands-free~~ electrical switch of claim 10, further comprising:

at least one visible ~~position~~ switch state indicator.

14. (Currently amended) The non-contact ~~hands-free~~ electrical switch of claim 10, further comprising:

an audio element configured to output an audible signal when the ~~appropriate~~ substantially linear switching motion is detected by the at least one detector.

15. (Currently amended) A method for switching a state of an electrical circuit, comprising:

effecting a substantially linear switching motion in front of a non-contact ~~hands-free~~ electrical switch;

detecting the switching motion;

timing the switching motion;

determining whether the timing of the switching motion occurs within a predetermined time range;

determining whether the switching motion is effected in a direction which corresponds to a change in the state of the electrical circuit; and

switching the state of the electrical circuit when the switching motion occurs within the predetermined time range and is effected in a direction that corresponds to a change in the state of the electrical circuit.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein switching the state of the electrical circuit comprises opening or closing the electrical circuit.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein detecting the switching motion is effected only if the switching motion is effected within a predetermined distance from the non-contact ~~hands-free~~ electrical switch.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
visibly indicating a ~~position~~ switch state of the non-contact ~~hands-free~~ electrical switch.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising:
altering a visible indication of the ~~position~~ switch state of the non-contact ~~hands-free~~ electrical switch when the state of the electrical circuit is ~~switched~~changed.

20. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
generating an audible signal when the state of the electrical circuit is ~~switched~~changed.

21. (New) The non-contact electrical switch of claim 1, wherein the motion detection element is also configured to sense an opposite substantially linear switching motion and, upon sensing the opposite substantially linear switching motion, to cause the electronic switching element to switch between the second state and the first state.

22. (New) The non-contact electrical switch of claim 21, wherein:
the substantially linear switching motion is an upward motion and the second state is an "on" state; and

the opposite substantially linear switching motion is a downward motion and the first state is an "off" state.

23. (New) The non-contact electrical switch of claim 1, wherein the motion detection element is configured to sense an intended, substantially linear switching motion that substantially emulates movement for changing a state of a conventional toggle light switch.